United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in unanimous resolution, urges parties to conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina to conclude just, comprehensive and freely agreed political settlement as soon as possible; says it would consider taking necessary measures to assist in implementation of such an agreement.

+ Security Council establishes United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia to verify compliance with the Cease-fire Agreement of 27 July; welcomes proposed deployment of mixed interim monitoring groups to consolidate cease-fire.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, deplores upsurge in violence in South Africa and urges parties to multiparty negotiations to redouble efforts to proceed to elections next year.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement last night, expresses concern at conflict in Tajikistan and at threat to peace in region; stresses need for end to fighting on Tajik-Afghan border; welcomes Secretary-General's proposal to extend mandate of Special Envoy for Tajikistan to 31 October.

+ Mohamed Aly Niazi appointed as Assistant Secretary-General for Inspections and Investigations, effective 1 September; to head independent Office with units covering auditing, management advisory services, evaluation and monitoring.

+ Secretary-General welcomes first meeting, held yesterday in Maputo, between President Chissano of Mozambique and Afonso Dhlakama of RENAMO, organized with help of United Nations.

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Acting under the enforcement provisions of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council today urged the parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina to conclude as soon as possible a just and comprehensive political settlement freely agreed by all, and called for an immediate cease-fire and an

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end to hostilities throughout the Republic The Council said it would consider taking the necessary measures to assist the parties in implementing such a settlement, which would require a decision by it. The Council took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 859 (1993), in which it noted with appreciation the report by the Secretary-General's Special Representative on the latest developments at the Geneva peace talks.

The Council affirmed that a solution to the conflict must conform with the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law. It also affirmed the continuing relevance in that context of: the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina; that fact that neither a change in the name of the State nor changes in its internal organization would affect its continued United Nations membership; the principles adopted by the London Conference, including the unacceptability of the acquisition of territory by force or by "ethnic cleansing"; respect for the right of all displaced persons to return home safely; and the maintenance of Sarajevo as a unified, multi-ethnic and pluri-religious city.

The Council demanded that all parties facilitate the unhindered flow of humanitarian assistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular to the "safe areas", and respect the safety and operational effectiveness of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) personnel.

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The Security Council today established the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) to verify compliance with the Cease-fire Agreement of 27 July between the Republic of Georgia and forces in Abkhazia, with special attention to the situation in the City of Sukhumi. The Mission will investigate reports of violations and attempt to resolve such incidents with the parties involved, and report to the Secretary-General on the implementation of its mandate. The Council took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 858 (1993), saying that the continuation of the conflict in Georgia threatened peace and stability in the region.

UNOMIG will be established for a period of six months subject to the proviso that it will be extended beyond the initial 90 days only upon a review by the Council based on a report from the Secretary-General, whether or not substantive progress has been made towards a lasting peace. The Mission will consist of up to 88 military observers and a minimal support staff.

The Council welcomed the proposed deployment of mixed interim monitoring groups of Georgian/Abkhaz/Russian units to consolidate the cease-fire, and asked the Secretary-General to facilitate cooperation between United Nations observers and those units. It called on all parties to respect the Cease-fire Agreement and to cooperate with UNOMIG and ensure the safety of all United Nations personnel and other peace-keeping and humanitarian personnel in Georgia. The Council called on the Georgian Government to conclude a status of forces agreement with the United Nations to facilitate the deployment of UNOMIG.

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The Council asked the Secretary-General to pursue, through his Special Envoy, efforts to facilitate the peace process and political negotiations, and expressed support for his cooperation with the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

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In a Presidential statement deploring the recent upsurge in violence and discord in South Africa, the Security Council today urged all the parties to the country's multiparty negotiations to redouble their efforts to resolve outstanding issues and to proceed as planned to the election scheduled for next year. It called on all South African leaders to work jointly to prevent violence in the election period, and commended the international community and the United Nations Peace Monitors for their role in helping to curb the violence.

The Council affirmed that all parties in the country must assist the Government in preventing opponents of democracy from using violence to threaten the country's democratic transition. It noted with approval the proposal for a national peace force to restore and maintain order in volatile areas, saying that any such force should be genuinely representative of the society and its major political bodies. The Council also welcomed the efforts by the leaders of the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party to convince their followers to avoid further violence.

People were alive today, the statement said, because of the tireless and courageous efforts of peace monitors of the United Nations and other international organizations, including the Organization of African Unity, the European Community and the Commonwealth, but far too many were still dying. The world community must continue to signal that it would not allow the violence to derail South Africa's political transition. The Council emphasized the key role of the multiparty negotiating process and reaffirmed its determination to remain supportive of efforts to facilitate the peaceful transition to a non-racial democracy for the benefit of all South Africans.

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The Security Council last night expressed deep concern at the continuing conflict in Tajikistan, at the growing crisis on the Tajik-Afghan border, and at the resulting threat this posed to peace and stability in Central Asia and beyond. In a statement read out by its President, Madeleine Albright (United States), the Council stressed the urgent need for an end to hostilities on the border between the two countries, and urged the Government of Tajikistan and opposition groups to accept the need for a political solution and to take part in negotiations for a cease-fire and national reconciliation.

The Council urged the Tajik Government and opposition groups to observe the basic political rights of all groups in the country, with a view to reconciliation and compliance with the principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). It reaffirmed the need to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Tajikistan and all other

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countries in the region. The Council drew attention to the critical humanitarian situation in Tajikistan and Tajik refugee camps in northern Afghanistan and the need for additional assistance. It called on the Government of Tajikistan to continue assisting in the return and reintegration of Tajik refugees who wished to return home.

The Council also welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to extend the mandate of his Special Envoy for Tajikistan until 31 October, and to extend the tenure of United Nations officials there by three months. It welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to dispatch his Special Envoy to Afghanistan and other countries in the region. The Council also recognized the actions of the Afghan and Tajik Governments in creating new negotiating bodies to reduce tension along their common border.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Mohamed Aly Niazi, an Egyptian national, as Assistant Secretary-General for Inspections and Investigations, effective 1 September. Mr. Niazi will head an independent Office for Inspections and Investigations which will incorporate units dealing with auditing, management advisory services and evaluation and monitoring. He will report directly to the Secretary-General and will work closely with the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management.

The new appointment is the first step towards the establishment of a higher level post with broader audit and investigative authority which is expected to be proposed for approval to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, according to a United Nations spokesman.

Mr. Niazi joined the United Nations as an Auditor in 1964. He served as Chief of the Administrative Management Service in Vienna, as Deputy Director of the Accounts Division at Headquarters and finally as Director of the Internal Audit Division until his retirement in December 1987.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the first meeting held yesterday in Maputo between President Joaquim Alberto Chissano of Mozambique and Afonso Dhlakama of the Resistência Nacional Mozambique (RENAMO). The meeting was organized with the assistance of the United Nations.

In a statement issued today, the Secretary-General said the meeting would have a confidence-building impact and would facilitate the full implementation of the General Peace Agreement in Mozambique. He expressed the hope that such dialogue would become an ongoing and action-oriented process, bringing a successful outcome to peace efforts in the country.

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